AB 2682 California Clean Communities & Petroleum Pollution

EVERYDAY CALIFORNIANS LIVE WITH THE HEALTH HAZARDS CAUSED BY PETROLEUM POLLUTION

Petroleum based products poison our drinking water, groundwater and coastal waters. Particulate matter, from airborne petroleum pollution, poisons our air. This pollution has been linked to cancer, heart disease, and premature death. Children are the most vulnerable to this pollution suffering from high rates of asthma.

THE COST OF CLEANUP

The state has a responsibility to protect public health and is forced to fund costly cleanup and mitigation efforts. An early response to this type of pollution can greatly reduce the ultimate cost of clean up. Over time pollutants expand and become more difficult to remove, making it essential to respond quickly. For methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) alone, it is estimated that the cost of clean up in California is currently over 800 million dollars.

THE CALIFORNIA CLEAN COMMUNITIES AND PETROLEUM PREVENTION CLEANUP ACT OF 2002

This legislation will address three critical public health and environmental problems caused by petroleum products: 1 groundwater pollution from such fuel additives such as MTBE, 2 surface water pollution from petroleum-tainted runoff and 3 air pollution from heavy-duty diesel engines – including big rigs and school buses. This legislation will fund the mitigation and cleanup of these environmental hazards with a 30-cent fee on each barrel of petroleum at the refinery stage. About 700 million barrels annually will be eligible for this fee, providing more than 200 million dollars each year for the California Petroleum Pollution Cleanup Fund.

Half of these funds will create the Petroleum-Polluted Water Remediation Account for the investigation, remediation, clean up, and restoration of surface and groundwater polluted by petroleum products, petroleum additives, or the effects of petroleum extraction or refining. The rest of the fund will mitigate airborne petroleum pollutants through the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the Carl Moyer program.

If you support this legislation, please send letters to:

Assembly Member Judy Chu State Capitol, Room 5126 Sacramento, CA 95814

For more information, please contact Anita Garcia at anita.garcia@asm.ca.gov.